

News from the Pacific Salmon Foundation

Paul Kariya, Executive Director

As we begin 2003, it is an opportune time to review our progress and establish expectations for the coming year. Not just for the Pacific Salmon Foundation, but also for the larger fisheries community. For we all have a stake in—and a responsibility for—the health and welfare of wild salmon. Have we moved any closer to accomplishing our vision of achieving healthy, sustainable, and naturally diverse Pacific salmon? Have we done everything we can to ensure that future generations will enjoy the same abundance seen by their predecessors?

Yes, we have moved closer to our vision. But we still have a long way to go before the issue of threatened salmon is no longer urgent.

Over the past year, the Pacific Salmon Foundation has grown significantly. Our capacity to take on larger initiatives, such as program management of the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund, has been tested and we have proven ourselves capable. We have established a framework that will allow us to move

forward, confident that we are using our resources to the fullest. We have established key partnerships with all

levels of government, First Nations, commercial and recreational fishers, business and science communities. We have built great support for our goal of rebuilding salmon stocks.

There is a saying that the sum of the parts is greater than the whole. By taking salmon stewardship to a higher strategic level, we can achieve so much more working together than we ever could alone. Our call to action over the coming year will relay this message. It's time for a concerted effort from all to act in unison. It is only through synchronized efforts that we will truly achieve our vision.

Community Salmon Program

The Pacific Salmon Foundation is committed to supporting worthwhile projects throughout British Columbia that further our mission of conserving and rebuilding salmon and their habitat. This year's funding process identified 75 projects that met or exceeded our expectations of community participation. The application can be downloaded from our Web site.

Funding Application Deadlines October 15 and February 15

Examples of 2002 Projects

Campbell River Summer Steelhead Committee/Haig Brown Kingfisher Creek Society, Summer Steelhead Restoration:

The objective of this project was to re-introduce a run of summer steelhead in the Campbell River. Tsitika River steelhead smolts were captured in spring 2001 and are currently being raised to maturity at the provincial trout hatchery on Vancouver Island, near Duncan. Plans are underway for an appropriate rearing facility.

Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society, Wilfred Creek Habitat Enhancement and Channel Entrenchment:

Wilfred Creek is an important salmonid production contributor to



Figure 1. The Still Creek Greenway Corridor provides hands-on project work and involves students and local citizens in the planning and implementation of the project.

Baynes Sound (chum, coho, pink, steelhead trout, and sea-run cutthroat). Objectives of the project were to: enhance, scour, and accelerate downstream movement of excess gravel; improve habitat quality in both depth and diversity within the lower reaches; and use large woody debris to enhance in-stream fish habitat and promote channel entrenchment within a short reach of lower Wilfred Creek.

Society for the Protection of Ayum Creek, Construction of Ayum Creek Side Channel:

The objective of this project is to construct a side channel in the lower reach of Ayum Creek. The project has been in the planning stages for three years. Ayum Creek presently supports wild populations of coho and chum salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout.

BCIT Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation Program, Burnaby Lake System Project, Still Creek Initiative:

The BCIT Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation Program is developing an integrated resource management strategy for the Still Creek Greenway corridor. Activities include:

- > compiling and documenting resource values within the corridor;
- > identifying environmentally sensitive areas important to fish, wildlife, and wetland habitats;
- > identifying habitat-enhancement opportunities;
- > identifying riparian enhancement opportunities and engaging the local community to implement those opportunities; and
- > providing hands-on project work (Figure 1).

The project will provide a comprehensive document to guide the co-ordination and direct enhancement and management of the corridor toward a common community-supported vision.

Partners In Action

TimberWest Forest Corporation: Pacific Salmon Foundation is pleased to announce an initial five-year partnership agreement with TimberWest. This partnership will manage a program, funded by TimberWest, to develop and support salmon habitat restoration and enhancement activities on TimberWest's private lands. TimberWest is committed to spending \$300,000 over five years on joint projects, which both parties will select by consensus. For 2002, approximately \$30,000 was allocated to conduct work on a passive-treatment copper-reduction project on lower wetlands of Pyrrhotite Creek.

Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society

Recovery Plan Update

The Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund is the first long-term funding mechanism designed to achieve sustainable salmon populations in British Columbia and the Yukon. A non-profit society, Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society (PSEFS), was established to act as the custodian of the endowment and to set program priorities. The Society appointed the Pacific Salmon Foundation as the program manager, responsible for managing funding applications, reviewing and selecting projects, allocating funds, and monitoring and evaluating projects.

The PSEFS Technical Committee, a dedicated team of fisheries experts from all sectors, has worked hard to ensure that the Society's mandate of creating healthy, sustainable salmon stocks in British Columbia and the Yukon is achieved. From the initial identification of three priority regions in the province, the Committee has been effective in developing holistic recovery plans that address deficiencies in the following watersheds.

Coldwater River:

The PSEFS selected the Coldwater River as the first watershed to receive attention in the Thompson River Basin salmon-recovery planning process for coho and steelhead in 2001. The Coldwater River is a tributary to the Nicola River and is located near Merritt. The Recovery Plan for the Coldwater was completed in November 2001. A copy of the complete Coldwater Recovery Plan can be found on the Pacific Salmon Foundation Web site: <http://www.psf.ca/04programs/04coldwater.html>

Priority projects were implemented shortly after plan completion. Five projects were initiated in late 2001. In 2002, the Local Advisory Committee identified a suite of projects that met the recovery plan priorities. These projects range from juvenile assessment and habitat study to in-stream work. The design assessment work to prepare for 2003 riparian and in-stream projects has been approved.

The Nicola Tribal Association (NTA) and the Nicola Watershed Community Roundtable (NWCRT) have been key to the development of the plan in the Coldwater area. They have brought together a range of participants who meet quarterly to discuss the progress of the Plan. The Local Advisory Committee is currently developing a priority project list for 2003.

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Partners In Action

Weyerhaeuser Company Limited commissioned a watershed assessment for the Englishman River in 2002 to identify impacts of past forest development activities on the condition of streams, and to guide a Prescription Team as they develop management strategies for Weyerhaeuser's future forest operations in the watershed. The Pacific Salmon Foundation participated as a member of the Prescription Team, which met frequently throughout the fall of 2002. PSF's involvement in this process encouraged co-ordination with the ongoing PSEF Recovery Plan in the Englishman Watershed. Weyerhaeuser's Englishman Watershed Assessment Prescription Team will release their recommendations shortly. The Watershed Assessment Report is available for viewing at Weyerhaeuser's Front Street Office in Nanaimo.

Nimkish River:

In October 2002, PSEF selected the Nimkish River Watershed on Northern Vancouver Island as the next watershed to receive attention in its salmon recovery planning process. The Nimkish River Watershed is located on northeastern Vancouver Island and drains north into Broughton Strait, directly across from Cormorant Island (Alert Bay).

The Nimkish Resource Management Board released a Watershed-based Fish Sustainability Plan in July 2002 for the Nimkish and Kokish Watersheds. Building on this plan, PSEF will specify targets and projects to assist in the recovery of salmon in that area. A recommendation of projects will be complete by the end of 2002 and the recovery plan will begin shortly thereafter.

The Nimkish Resource Management Board (NRMB) is a partnership of stakeholders committed to the well-being of salmon stocks on northern Vancouver Island. The NRMB will serve as the Local Advisory Group for the plan in this area.

Rivers and Smith Inlets:

Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund selected Rivers and Smith Inlets on the central coast of British Columbia in 2002 as the next priority region to receive attention in its salmon recovery planning process. Rivers and Smith Inlets were, until recently, part of a key commercial fishing area for the province.

In 2000, Fisheries and Oceans Canada made recommendations for a recovery plan for Rivers and Smith Inlet sockeye. Building on this plan, PSEF will specify targets and projects to assist in the recovery of salmon in that area. The plan will cover a number of watersheds and the surrounding marine area, with a special focus on sockeye stocks in the Inlets. A recommended list of projects will be complete by early 2003 and the recovery plan will be implemented shortly thereafter.

The Rivers and Smith Planning Group (RSPG) was formed in 2000 to address concerns about the demise of sockeye runs in the Rivers and Smith area. The RSPG will serve as the Local Advisory Group for the Plan in this area.

Englishman River:

The Englishman River was selected by PSEF as the first watershed to receive attention in the Georgia Basin salmon recovery planning process for coho and steelhead in 2001. The Englishman River, located in the mid-east area of Vancouver Island near Parksville, is an important salmon-producing stream on the mid-coast of Vancouver Island. The recovery plan for the Englishman was completed in September 2001. A copy of the complete Englishman River recovery plan can be found on the Pacific Salmon Foundation Web site at:

<http://www.psf.ca/04programs/04englishman.html>.

Priority projects were implemented shortly after the recovery plan was completed. Three projects were initiated in late 2001. In 2002, the Local Advisory Committee identified a suite of projects. These projects ranged from adult and smolt enumeration to flow and water-quality monitoring. Various stewardship groups, including the BC Conservation Foundation and the Community Fisheries Development Centre, administered the projects.

The Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society is a regional streamkeeper society that also serves as the local advisory group for the PSEF Englishman Recovery Plan. The Local Advisory Committee is currently developing a priority project list for 2003.

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